



Ethiopia: Addis Ababa Gonder, Lalibela, Axum & Bahir Dar

Ethiopia is located in the horn of East Africa. Its land mass is nearly twice the size of the state of Texas with a population of about 90 million. There are more than 70 different ethnic groups with Oromo, Amhara and Tigray being the largest. The most commonly spoken languages include Amarigna (Amharic) (official), Oromigna, Tigrigna, Somaligna, Guaragigna, Sidamigna, and Hadiyigna. Amharic is written using a script that originated with the Ge'ez language called the Fidel, which follows:

	ä	u	i	a	e	ī	o
h	ሀ	ሁ	ሂ	ሃ	ሄ	ህ	ሆ
l	ለ	ሉ	ሊ	ላ	ሌ	ሎ	ሎ
h	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሐ
m	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ማ	ሚ	ም	ሞ
s	ሠ	ሡ	ሢ	ሣ	ሤ	ሥ	ሦ
r	ረ	ሩ	ሪ	ራ	ሪ	ሮ	ሮ
s	ሰ	ሱ	ሲ	ሳ	ሴ	ስ	ሶ
sh	ሸ	ሹ	ሺ	ሻ	ሼ	ሽ	ሾ
q	ቀ	ቁ	ቂ	ቃ	ቄ	ቅ	ቆ
b	በ	ቡ	ቢ	ባ	ቤ	ብ	ቦ
t	ተ	ቱ	ቲ	ታ	ቴ	ት	ቸ
ch	ቸ	ቹ	ቺ	ቻ	ቼ	ች	ቸ
h	ኀ	ኁ	ኂ	ኃ	ኄ	ኅ	ኆ
n	ነ	ኑ	ኒ	ና	ኔ	ን	ኆ
ñ	ኘ	ኙ	ኚ	ኝ	ኞ	ኟ	አ
a	አ	አ	አ	አ	አ	አ	አ
k	ከ	ከ	ከ	ከ	ከ	ከ	ከ

History and Culture

Ethiopians resisted two attempts at Italian colonization in 1896 and again in 1941 after a 5 year occupation. Ethiopians have a strong sense of culture and pride as a result of this unprecedented feat. Northern Ethiopia is home to national treasures that are ancient, mysterious and steeped in spirituality and tradition. They are a source of great pride. Spirituality and national heritage are present in many aspects of Ethiopian culture. It is a collective society that values sharing and respect, especially for elders.

Ethiopia

Traditional Healing and Community Well-being

Yatesha D. Robinson
University of Michigan School of Social Work



Global Special Studies Project

The purpose of my project was to gather information regarding the usage of traditional medicine in Ethiopia and to explore the implications for future interventions to manage and prevent disease.

Community Partners

- Gracious community members in Addis Ababa
- University of Addis Ababa School of Social Work

- Dr. Afework Kassu
 - Department of Microbiology and Parasitology, Gondar College of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Dr. Kassu has conducted research and authored several articles regarding traditional medicine and health needs in Ethiopia*

Skills Utilized

- Identified some sources of political, social and economic inequalities
- Examined how people inspire social and community change
- Engaged in personal self-reflection, self-awareness and self-correction

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the Office of Global Activities for your financial support and to Dr. Rosemary Sarri for all of your guidance. A grand thanks to all of the Ethiopians who offered me great service and insight: Afework Kassu, Wendemneh Lemma, Ashenafi Hagos, HaileMichael Tesfahun, Muna Asfaw, Mulugeta Orlando Mekonnen and my Habesha community.

Outcomes

- ➡ Traditional medicine is practiced mostly in the countryside by those with limited resources
- ➡ There are concerns and/or fears surrounding inconsistent dosages of herbal remedies
- ➡ Traditional remedies for mild afflictions (i.e. common cold) are used by both urban and rural populations
- ➡ Ethiopian researchers are cataloguing and testing herbal usage, dosage and effectiveness
- ➡ The documentation of medicinal plants is becoming increasingly urgent due to loss of natural habitat

Unexpected Shift in Focus

- Drought and Water Security
- Hunger and Food Security
- Irrigation and Farming
- Economic Development
- Political Systems and Systematic Oppression

Lessons Learned

- The more I learn, the less I know
- Things are usually not what they seem on the surface
- Policy and Economics are at the root of most human rights issues
- Social change abroad is very different from in USA
- The privilege and economic opportunity in America is unsurpassed

Classroom Connections

647: Policies and Services for Community Well-Being

- Discover y of the root causes of injustice and oppression
- Recognize policies that have positive or negative impacts on communities

522 Basic Social Work Research

- Research and critical thinking skills were useful in gathering data before and during my journey

I highly recommend the Global Social Work mini-course

Advice for Global Social Workers

1. Do It!!! Go. Learn. Grow. Contribute.
2. Go to U of M International Institute to make contact with university faculty who have worked in your country of interest and establish connections through them
3. Be open to new ideas and research opportunities as they present themselves
4. Be mindful of the root causes of the issues that you witness—especially national policies
5. Respect the people and learn from them



This poster was created for the Fall 2011 Global Social Work Poster Session